PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

OF THE SALISBURY DISTRICT

N. C. CONFERENCE,

M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH,

WHICH MET IN

THE M. E. CHURCH IN STATESVILLE, N. C.,

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 31, 1879.

Compiled by Rev. M. V. Sherrill, Ass't Sec.

MONROE, N. C.:
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1879.

THE FLOWERS COLLECTION

PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY.

MORNING SESSION, JULY 31ST, 1879.

Conference convened in the Methodist Church at 10 o'clock, A. M., Rev. R. G. Barrett, P. E. in the Chair, and was opened with religious exercises, conducted by the President, assisted by Rev. E. J. Eudaily. Rev. James Wilson, Secretary of the last Conference called the roll. Sixteen responded. The small attendance at the opening, was owing to the excessive rains and swollen streams.

Adjourned for preaching, to meet at 2 o'clock, P. M., and complete the organization. Rev. W. S. Creasy preached from Rev. iv: 3.

AFTERNOON SESSION, THURSDAY, JULY 31ST.

Conference convened at 2 o'clock, P. M., and was opened with religious services conducted by Rev. A. Carson.

Rev. James Wilson was elected Secretary. Rev. M. V. Sherrill was elected assistant Secretary.

Minutes of the morning session read and approved.

The roll was called, and Rev.'s P. C. Jurney and A. Carson, L. P's, and N. P. Watt, lay delegates answered to their names.

On motion of Rev. James Wilson, Conference resolved to meet at 8½ o'clock, A. M., and adjourn for preaching at 11 o'clock, A. M., and meet at 2½ o'clock, P. M., and adjourn at will.

On motion of Rev. J. T. Harris, it was agreed to dispense with Committees, except for special purposes.

On motion of Rev. M. V. Sherrill, the Presiding Elder of the District, the Preacher in charge of the Station and Bro.'s, T. C. Anderson and P. Tomlin, were appointed a Committee of Divine worship.

The bar of the Conference was fixed to extend to the rear facing of the second window.

The President read a letter from Mrs. N. H. D. Wilson, President of the North Carolina Conference Woman's Missionary Society.

The following resolutions were offered by Rev.'s James Wilson and J. T. Harris, and unanimously adopted by the Conference.

Whereas, Rev. M. V. Sherrill of the Conference, and W. C. Wolfe, Esq., of Monroe, N. C., propose to publish the Minutes of this District Conference, in pamphlet form, assuming all pecuniary risk upon condition that the Conference use its influence in their circulation at five cents per copy, or fifty cents per dozen; Therefore

Resolved, That as a Conference, we approve of the proposition of Bro.'s Sherrill and Wolfe, and that if the Minutes are published, we will do what we reasonably can to circulate them.

The President here addressed the Conference, extending a hearty welcome on the part of the people of Statesville, giving a brief report of the condition of the District, some account of his own religious experience, and an earnest exhortation to labor for special revivals.

Bro. Henry Turner, lay delegate from the Iredell Circuit, appeared and took his seat.

The reports from the pastors of the several charges were then called for.

Salisbury Ct.—Rev. D. L. Earnhart, P. C.—Spiritual condition not as good as desired, but improving. At Ebenezer, we have just held a meeting, resulting in eighteen conversions and twenty-five accessions. Have had twenty-five accessions during the year. No parsonage, eight churches, all good except one. Some considerable portion of territory without Methodist preaching. At one or two places churches might be organized. Not more than one-sixth of the heads of families hold family prayer. Parents have their children baptized. Church Conference held regularly and considerable interest manifested by the members.

Brother P. M. Barringer, lay delegate, states that they operate the assessment plan at his church, which works well. At other appointments they operate the subscription plan.

Rev. A. M. Long, Preacher in Charge of Hunting Creek Mission, appeared and took his seat.

Mooresville Ct.—Rev. J. T. Harris, P. C.—Spiritual condition fair, will compare favorably with the best circuits. Knows of no dram drinking among the members. Knows of but one who dances. Six Sunday-Schools in successful operation. Church Conference held regularly and successfully. All the Conference collections secured. The month of June was devoted specially to this subject, preaching on these subjects at all the churches. The assessment for Missions all paid. Seven churches. Six in good condition. One good parsonage, nicely painted and plastered; rather small; out of debt. Assessed for pastor $600; for P. E. $1,05. Paid pastor $205,45. Paid P. E. $34,50. Whole amount subscribed. The records of the Quarterly Conference have not been well kept; a new book has been secured, however, and hope for improvement. Raleigh Christian Advocate largely circulated, eight or ten copies of Nashville Christian Advocate taken. There is a good school at Davidson College, taught by two Methodist ladies, Misses Jurney and Robey. No other schools of importance. No Mission territory which could be profitably occupied.

Rev. N. S. Norton, from Statesville Circuit, appeared and took his seat.

Statesville Ct.- Rev. T. L. Triplett, P. C.—Bro. J. T. Harris, reported that Bro. Triplett, was quite ill. The following written report from the pastor was read.

MOORESVILLE, N. C, July, 30th 1879.

Dear Brother Barrett, and Brethren of District Conference:

I am sick in bed and regret that I am providentally prevented from meeting with you, which I hoped to do. I cheerfully submit to my afflictions which keep me at home, and hope you may have a pleasant and profitable session. May God be with you.

I send this my report: I have found the people on the Statesville Circuit truly noble and christian hearted members of the church. I regard the spiritual state of that work as improving. The congregations are good and orderly. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is well attended. Fifteen children have been baptized and one adult. There are four regular prayer meetings and one good class-meeting kept up. There is no Missionary ground in the bounds of the work. There are five Sunday-Schools, all in good condition. This interest has been greatly revived this year. Our church literature is used in all the Schools. We have raised about $10 for Sunday-School purposes. We use the subscription plan in the Church Conference. About $160,00 has been paid. The assessment for the pastor is $500 and P. E. $50, all of which will be paid. The Conference claims will all be met. I have met with fine success as far as the collections have been taken. There

are three church buildings in good repair, and two others which need repairs, which will be done this fall. I preach also at Chamber's school house. Arrangements are being made to build a church at this point and also at Troutman's Depot. Lots have been procured at both places. The parsonage is unoccupied and unfurnished. To the present the records of the Quarterly Conferences have not been well kept, but arrangements for a new book have been made, in which the records hereafter will be correctly recorded.

Yours in the Gospel,

T. L. TRIPLETT.

Rev. N. S. Norton, reported that he had been engaged the most of the year in teaching. Has fifty scholars. Is getting a support; but enjoys more religion in preaching than in teaching. Has two regular appointments.

Bro. N. P. Watt, reports for New Salem, 75 members; assessed $200. Will pay it, or try. Fine Sunday-School. Use Lesson Papers. Teaching the children to sing. Good Sunday-School at Providence. Church looking up.

Bro. J. A. Stone, reports for Trinity: Pastor well received. Good Sunday-School; over 50 scholars. Church improving.

Surry Circuit, Rev. W. S. Creasy, P. C.—The spiritual condition of the Surry Circuit is tolerably good, some of our members seem to enjoy a great deal of religion, are self-sacraficing and active workers in the Vineyard of the Lord. Others are careless and worldly minded. The condition of the Circuit is improving, the signs are hopeful. The ordinances of the church are well attended, our people enjoy these precious privileges very much. We have baptized eight children this year. The social meetings of our church are also well attended, and the results are seen and felt for good. The Lord has been pleased to bless the Surry Circuit abundantly since our last District Conference. About 160 have been converted and the same number added to the church, and the membership has been quickened and abundantly revived. We have been able under the blessings of our Heavenly Father to receive 475 members into the church, since we came on the Circuit, this being our fourth and last year on the work. The Lord be magnified for his goodness to us. There is considerable field for Missionary work in the bounds of the Surry Circuit, several neighborhoods, densely populated and without preaching, save two or three times a year, and that from a class of preachers not calculated to advance them in the knowledge of holy things. The people are anxious in most cases to have the gospel preached to them, and from our church, but our work is so large already that it is im-

possible for us to serve them. There is sufficient territory, population and ability for two good circuits where we now have only one. Oh! that the good Lord may send more laborers in this important part of his Vineyard. We have eight Sabbath-Schools in operation; most of them flourishing, and well attended. This interest has improved considerably since last year; in fact there has been a steady improvement in this department for the last three or four years. The harvest is truly plenteous; if we had laborers—that is superintendents and teachers—we could very easily thrible our present report. We are glad to know tnat our people are awakening to a sence of duty in this direction and are showing themselves willing to make some sacrifices for the good of the children in our section. In some of our schools we use the Lesson Papers, in others, we follow the plan that the schools may adopt. Much attention is given to committing the Scriptures to memory, and a great many of our children and young people are succeeding finely in this direction. Educational interests are much neglected in our section, in fact, at present, we have no schools except the Public Free Schools, and in the manner in which they are conducted they do but little good. A few of our people send their children away to good schools and colleges, but the largest, much the largest class is sadly neglected in this all important matter. We have endeavored to circulated some good books among the people. We have also been able to introduce the Raleigh Christian Advocate in a few families where it has not hitherto gone. The people are well pleased with it and many more would take it but for their poverty. I think the outlook is hopeful for us to accomplish much in this direction. There are also several copies of the Nashville Advocate taken on my work. There is a prospect of having a school at Dobson, the county seat, under the direction of a teacher hailing from Trinity College. We have hope of its success. The financial condition of the Circuit is not good, yet we are hopeful. Not more than one-fourth of the preacher's salary has bee.. paid; this our people usually are not able to (or do not) pay much until the latter part of the year. The assessment plan is worked at most of the appointments, at the others collections are taken. We raise the collections ordered by Conference by public collections. We have not taken all our collections yet, the prospect is that they will be as good as usual, perhaps better. We have no parsonage, the preacher lives in a rented house. The houses of worship are in very good condition. We have two that are in course of erection now and will be completed this year. We have succeeded in building eight

good houses of worship ranging in value from $400 to $1200 dollars. Also repaired and remodeled another at a cost of about $300. Our people have done nobly in this direction The foundation is laid for a grand movement for the cause of Christ and our beloved Zion in this field of labor. The records of the Quarterly Conferences have been faithfully kept with few exceptions. We are now using the blank record book, furnished by our publishing house, and find it a great convenience and help to accurate and complete records.

The field is white for the harvest. The outlook encouraging. May Heaven's richest blessings rest upon the Surry Circuit.

Respectfully Submitted,

W. S. CREASY, Pastor.

Rev. N. M. Jurney, Agent for Trinity College was introduced, and addressed the Conference briefly on the subject of his Agency.

On motion Conference adjourned with the benediction by the President.

Rev. A. A. Boshamer. of Charlotte, preached at 8 o'clock, P. M., from Psalm, 92: 12–15.

SECOND DAY.

Morning Session, Friday, August 1.

Conference met at 8½ o'clock, according to adjournment, and was opened with religious services conducted by Rev. P. C. Jurney.

Minutes of the afternoon session read and approved.

The roll was called, and several additional members answered to their names.

On motion of Rev. James Wilson, the calling of the roll was dispensed with after this morning.

On motion of J. B. Connely, the time of meeting was changed from 8½ to 9 o'clock, A. M.

Wilkes Ct.—Rev. E. J. Eudaily, P. C.—The spiritual interest of the Circuit is in fair condition. As compared with last year, there has been a decided improvement. We have fewer disorderly members, an increased interest in personal religion, and a considerble increase in the number of church members. Some few have been expelled and some names dropped from the class-books. 8 have been received by profession and by letter the present year. The attendance on divine worship and ordinances is good, and the

congregations are generally very orderly and attentive to the preaching of the word. Advocate and good books circulated to a limited extent. We have nine regular appointments, besides occasional preaching at private houses and other places; at eight of the regular appointments, we have organized societies. The entire membership of the Circuit, number 370. Only two adults and one infant have been baptized. We have seven churches on the Circuit, five of them are good, neat, frame buildings, of the other two one is a comfortable hewed log house, of good size, the other is an old dilapidated building. Measures have been set on foot to replace this by a new and more commodious house, which we hope will be carried into effect before a great while. The church property is valued at $3,200, and have a seating capacity of 1800. The following assessments for the present year. P. E. $75, P. C. $200, Bishop, $7. Foreign Missions, $37, Domestic Missions, $20, Conference fund $15. Up to the present, there have been paid on these assessments as follows: P. E. $9.25, P. C. $55, Foreign Mission $3.55, Domestic Missions, $10.78. Nothing has been raised on the other assessments as yet. The assessment plan has been adopted to a considerable extent, and we think the assessment will be paid, if proper efforts is made by the close of the Conference year. We have seven Sunday-Schools in operation, and they are generally in good condition. Connected with these Schools there are 7 Superintendents, 31 Teachers, 320 scholars. These Schools have 321 Volumes in their Libraries, valued at $37. 135 copies of Lesson and other papers are taken, and $30,75 have been raised and expended in Sunday-School literature. As compared with the previous year increased interest has been manifested in this department of our work, and much good is being accomplished in training the young people for future usefulness in the church of God. Commendable interest manifested in education. Between the Wilkes and Alexander Circuits there is a scope of country 15x30 miles, which is Mission territory, and might be successfully accupied. E. J. EUDAILY.

Roaring River Mission.—Rev. J. F. Craven, P. C.—Embraces a territory of 55 miles in extent along the Blue Ridge. Found no houses to preach in. Established appointments at private houses and some times in groves. Great destitution and vice. First appointments very little attended. The word very little appreciated. Strong prejudice against Methodist preachers. Congregations in-

creased, and had at some places penitents and good meetings. Just laying the foundation. Have one society of 30 members, transfered from the Surry Circuit. People seem anxious to have protracted meetings. Have some trouble with the adventists. Some opposition to Sunday-Schools. Have received $3.35 from the Mission.

J. B. King, lay delegate from Alexander Circuit appeared and took his seat.

Hunting Creek Mission.—Rev. A. M. Long, P. C.—Developing slowly. Three small societies organized. Work lies partly in N. E. Iredell, Wilkes and Yadkin counties, along Hunting Creek, 20 by 25 miles in extent. Seven appointments; openings for one or two more. Have 27 members. Own two houses, in bad condition; other appointments at school houses. Three Sunday-Schools of our own, and two Union Schools. Some interest in studying the Scriptures. No literary schools higher than the free schools. Considerable dram drinking; some improvement, however. Raised $1.15 for Conference collection; 70 cents for the pastor.

Rev.'s A. A. Boshamer, Pastor of Tryon Street, Church at Charlotte, and E. A. Yates, Pastor of Tryon Street Church, Wilmington, were introduced and invited to take seats in the Conference.

Rev. F. L. Reid, one of the Editors of the Raleigh Christian Advocate, was introduced and made some remarks in reference to his paper.

Adjourned with the benediction.

Rev. J. T. Harris preached at 11 o'clock, A. M., from 1 Cor., iii: 9.

AFTERNOON SESSION, SECOND DAY, AUG. 1.

Opened at 2:30 P. M., with religious services by Rev E J Eudaily.

Minutes of the morning session read and approved.

R. P. Patterson, lay delegate from Little River Circuit; Thomas Ray, from Salisbury Circuit in place of H. C. Kluttz, L. B. Walker, from Mocksville Circuit, J. B. Cornelius and C. E. Wilkinson, from Mooresville Circuit, B. F. Cornelius, in place of W. A. Brown, from Mooresville Circuit, J. D. Click and C. W. Kestler, from Statesville Circuit, W. J. Calvert, from Iredell Circuit, J. E. Stinson, in place of W. M. Brooks, from Iredell Circuit, M. L. Holmes, from Salisbury Station, J. J. Bell, in place of J. D. Gaskill, from Salisbury Station, J. F. Sharpe and D. F. Harris, from Alexander Circuit, appeared and took their seats.

Alexander Ct.—Rev. J. C. Rowe, P. C.—There are seven appointments on the Alexander Circuit. Spiritual condition of the churches on this Circuit is tolerably good. We are reviving class-meetings. Our congregations are large, attentive and serious. The general deportment in and about the church is commendable. Have prayer-meetings and class-meetings; these are well attended. The attendance upon the ordinances of the church is good, better than ordinary. I am satisfied that revival feeling is on the increase and anticipate gracious revival meetings before the year closes. I cannot say that universal peace and good will exists, yet, I can say that peace and harmony prevail. Such personal differences and strifes as cuts Christian fellowship do not abound. We frequently hold church conferences. We find those church meetings amply adapted to answer the purpose for which they are intended. There is no unoccupied territory, or missionary ground within the bounds of Alexander Circuit. We have had about 60 conversions since our last District Conference, and 30 accessions to the church. We have lost seven members by death and several by removal and two by expulsion, this year. Twenty-six infants and 8 adults have been baptized on this Circuit, since the last District Conference. Total membership 570, all white members. We have seven Sunday-Schools on the Alexander Circuit, in which there are three hundred and seventy-five teachers and scholars, studying the Bible or learning to read. Four of these schools are in a flourishing condition. Three of them are but ordinary schools. We have introduced the Lesson Quarterly into three schools. These Lesson Quarterlies are giving satisfaction—the schools that use them are very well pleased—all the schools expect to use them next year. The books used are the Bible and spelling books and some catechisms. Religious services are conducted in opening and closing—great prominence is given to singing, which has worked decided improvement in this particular within the last year. Education receives due attention. We have no graded schools within the bounds of the Alexander Circuit, but parents as a rule educate their children as well as they are able to do, by sending them to common and subscription schools. There are several copies of the Raleigh Christian Advocate taken, also several copies of the Nashville Advocate. The people are generally tolerably well supplied with our publications. The Stewards and Church Conference of the Alexander Circuit adopt the assessment plan for raising the salaries of its

ministers. We take up public collections to raise our Missionary and Conference collections. This is the plan adopted by the church conferences, with one exception. Assessed for P. C. $425, for P. E. $90; one-third of these claims is paid. We have raised $13,32 for Domestic Missions, and $4 for the Bishop, and about $30 for other objects since the last Annual Conference. We have not taken up our collections on account of the scarcity of money in the country. I intend to try to raise my assessments which are as follows: For Bishop, $9, Conference collections $43, Foreign Missions $42 Domestic Missions $23. There are seven appointments on the Alexander Circuit. We have four church buildings on the Curcuit, three of these are in good condition, one is an old unfinished dilapidated building. There are three large camp-grounds on the Circuit. One of the camp-grounds is one of the appointments where we have no church building. There is a house there that affords very good accommodation in winter—we use the Arbor in warm weather. Another appointment where we have no house, that we can call ours, is a Union Church nominally and a divided church in reality, there being three organized societies there. The other destitute place is a new appointment which was, until this year attached to the Hunting Creek Mission; at this appointment we have just had a gracious revival; the prospect of this appointment is brightening. Total value of church property $4,820. There is a parsonage belonging to the Alexander Circuit; the house is medium size, in tolerable good condition and furnished sufficiently to accommodate a small family. The parsonage is at York Institute, 5½ miles north of Taylorsville Quarterly Conference Records properly kept.

Bro. D. F. Harris reports, church and Sunday-School prosperous at Stony Point. Bro J. F. Sharpe, reports good Sunday-School at Liberty. Assessment plan adopted, and works well. Expects to build a new church. Bro. J. B. King, states that they will pay their assessment at Pisgah. Have a good Sunday-School.

Little River Ct.—Rev. A. Carson, P. C.—There are four regular Sunday appointments, known as Taylorsville, Carson's Chapel, Liberty Grove Stand, and Dunn's Stand, we have procured a Deed for 2¼ acres of land at Dunn's Stand, on which we desire and expect to build a church or arbor. We have good title Deeds to Carson's Chapel and Taylorsville church property; as to Liberty Grove Stand we have not any title to any church property, but there seems to be as much interest at that point as at any other point on our

work. As to the spiritual condition or state of church, it is encouraging at every point except one, there seems to be some dissatisfaction as to the new arrangements made by the proper authority, as we think and believe with the fear of God before our eyes, which opposition has been very damaging to the cause of religion at that point, to wit: Taylersville. At every other appointment the congregations are good and have very good order and seemingly good interest. As to Missions, we have raised the amounts assessed on our work. Also under this head we would say that there is a large field west of Taylorsville, that the M. E. Church South, should look after and care for. For we are of opinion that much has been lost already by neglect in that field. As to Sunday-Schools, we have three good Sunday-Schools on our Circuit; good interest at every point. Lesson Papers used in one School only; we think our people are beginning to see the importance of the Lesson Papers in order to success in Sunday-School instructions. As to the cause of education generally, there is not anything special within the bounds of our work. As to the finances of the church: We have paid the amounts assessed to the P. E. on Little River Circuit. Also there has been paid something towards the amounts asssessed the P. C. As to the condition of the houses of worship: At Taylorsville, we have a pretty good brick church building. At Carson's Chapel, we have a school house and a very good arbor. At Liberty Grove, we have a good stand and nature's beautiful grove. At Dunn's Stand, we have a good stand and grove, also we have the use of a vacant store house at that point. And in conclusion, all things considered we are encouraged and hope the day is not far distant when the great cause of religion shall revive and many be brought under its hallowed and saving influence, within the bounds of our work.

Salisbury St.—Rev. J. J. Renn, P. C.—Spirituality has improved. Have had two revivals, 40 conversions at the first, and 130 at the second; over 100 accessions to our church. Attendance at communion good. Average attendance at prayer-meetings. Church conference, love feast and experience meetings, well attended. Have one class of boys, which meets once a week and is doing good; some boys talk and pray in these meetings. Records well kept. Have not raised much for Conference collections. Raised some for Domestic Missions. 240 members on the roll; nett increase, 100 in the last year. Good church building. Raleigh Christian Advocate has a good circulation; some copies of the

Nashville Christian Advocate taken. Family prayer attended to in some cases. Sunday-School in good condition.

Bro. R. R. Crawford, states that the Sunday-School is not as good in the summer as it is in the winter; 135 teachers and scholars; useing Lesson system; 12 Magazines, and 120 Lesson Papers taken. Black board exercises used some times.

Finance Report.—Assessed for P. E., $90;—of this $34.20 has been paid. Assessed for P. C., $750;—of this, $484.90 has been paid. We have also collected, for incidental expenses, $141.60. For church debt, $171 50. Sunday-School collections, $23 58. Sunday-School collections for Missions, $35.

Mt. Airy Ct.—Rev. James Wilson, P. C.- Spiritual condition fair. Attendance upon the ordinances and social meetings of the church good. There is some territory adjacent to the charge, that may properly come under the head of Missionary ground, or at any rate demands the attention of the church. It is thought that the charge is not doing its duty for Missions, especially foreign. The collections will hardly be met in full. There are five Sunday-Schools in the charge, in good condition. Three of them especially. The uniform Lesson system is used. To this the success is mainly owed. About $50 have been raised for this purpose. Assessment plan of raising money for the support of the Ministry is used. The amount raised up to date of this session, is fully up to or beyond that of former years. The houses of worship are in tolerably good condition excepting two, and some money is raised for the repair of the one and a plan is laid for replacing the other with a new building. The Quarterly Conference Records are well and faithfully kept.

On motion of Rev. James Wilson, Rev.'s T. A. Boone, W. S. Creasy, and J. T. Harris, and Bro.'s W. M. Robbins and Aaron Tucker were appointed a Committee on Missions.

Mocksville Ct.—T A Boone, P. C.—8 churches, with about 800 members Spiritual condition, as indicated by attendence upon ordinances and support of institutions is good. Church conferences held and found helpful. Assessment of the members at all the churches, is the plan and works with less friction than any other ever tried. Amount assessed for P. C., $800; for P. E., $105. Nearly 2-3of this has been paid. Collection for Foreign Missions, $40; Domestic Missions $20; Conference, $24. Nine Sunday-Schools, 434 scholars, 60 teachers and officers. Our Literature is used.

Statesville St.—Thos. A. Coon, P. C.—The answers to questions in Discipline, in their application to this pastoral charge, are embodied in the following statements, viz: First, as to its spiritual state. The type of piety which obtains among our people is not uniform, but compares favorably, perhaps, with that of any other charge. While we have some who have made higher attainments in the divine life, and are filling wider spheres of usefulness than others, yet the majority of our membership "continues to evidence their desire of salvation," by observing both the positive and negative duties of religion. We have a faithful few, who are ready with heart and hand to promote both the spiritual and material interests of the church, to encourage by their prayers and counsels and labors, any who may be discouraged and ready to halt by the way. We have a noble band of christian workers of both sexes and of all ages, who have the interest of the church at heart, and who are doing what they can to move forward the ark of the covenant. Our ministry, during this District Conference year, has not been altogether barren of results, though we have not witnessed as great displays of the Divine power in the conversion of souls as we had desired. The preaching of the word attended by the demonstration of the spirit, has been made effectual to the saving of souls. To a number it has proved a "savor of life unto life," and about thirty have been added to the church, all of whom (in so far as we know) are proving faithful. While we have said that a majority of our people, are endeavoring to follow in the footsteps of the Master, and to hearken to his commands, yet we would not attempt to disguise the fact that we have a few, who perhaps have turned their backs upon the Saviour. The attendance upon the ordinances of the church, with the exception mentioned, is good. It is almost universal, and our Sacramental occasions are usually of much spiritual profit to the church. The social meetings of the church are not as well attended as they should be. We have prayer-meetings every Wednesday night, but the attendance is not large. As to Missions: There is no Mission ground in the Town proper, but at a short distanee in the country, there has been a neglect of religious instruction among the people. This territory now is, and has been for some time past, occupied by the Young Men's Christian Association. As to Sunday-Schools: We have one Sunday-School. Considerable interest is manifested in this department of our church work. It is conducted on the Lesson Paper system. The Teacher's Magazine and Little People are

used, and occasionally the new song book, entitled, 'New Life,' has been introduced. As to our financial system: The envelope system is practiced. The plan is to distribute to each member at the beginning of the year, as many envelopes as there are Sundays in the year, and each one is expected to contribute every Sunday about 1-50 of the amount pledged for the year. This applies only to salary of preacher and P. E. Our contributions to other church purposes are raised in the ordinary way. We would state in this connection; that the entire amount of our assessment for collections ordered by the Conference, for this year including Foreign and Domestic Missionary apportionment, and Bishop's and Conference fund, has been secured by money and pledges. Our house of worship is in good condition—parsonage also in good condition. This has recently been painted and to some extent furnished, chiefly through the instrumentality of the "Ladies Aid Society," which was organized last Fall. As to the manner in which the records of the Quarterly Conferences have been kept: Our Recording Steward's book is in excellent condition and exhibits signs of much care and patience. He has not simply filed the various papers that have been committed to him as their legal guardian, but has recorded and preserved them in permanent form. These are all recorded in chronological order. Upon the whole, we feel safe in reporting the charge which we represent in fair spiritual condition, and in adding that the outlook for the future is hopeful.

On motion of Rev. T. A. Boone, the hour of 3 o'clock to-morrow was set apart for the election of Delegates to the Annual Conference.

Leave of absence was granted Rev. D. L. Earnhart.

Brief remarks were made by Bro.'s W. M. Robbins and R. R. Crawford, in regard to the duty and importance of every one contributing to the support of the gospel.

On motion Conference adjourned with the benediction by the President.

Rev. James Wilson, preached in the Methodist Church, at 8 o'clock, P. M., from John 12: 32.

Iredell Ct.—Rev. M. V. Sherrill, P. C.—Spiritual condition fair and hopeful, Not, however, as good as it ought to be, considering the advantages they have enjoyed in the past. The Circuit is an average in regard to family prayer and family religion. Have had no serious trouble with worldly amusements. There are, perhaps, a few dram drinking members, a considerable number, whose piety

is of a low and loose type; but a great many devoted men and women, young and old. There are nine regular appointments, supplied once a month, all but one on Sunday. The attendance at the Sunday services is very good, and the deportment of the congregations and attention to preaching excellent. A very large proportion of our members commune at every opportunity. Our people, as a rule, believe in and practice Infant Baptism. At a few places prayer-meetings and class-meetings are kept up, irregularly; but as a general rule, there is a failure for want of suitable leaders and sufficient interest. Have had no special revival interest yet; expect, however, to hold protracted services at all the churches during the remainder of the year. No Mission territory which we could profitably occupy. Assessment for Foreign and Domestic missions, $75.00. Of this amount I have secured in money and reliable pledges, $56.00. The whole assessment will be raised. We have 8 Sunday-Schools; I am not prepared to give statistics. These schools have all been in fair condition. I find here the trouble which is almost universal, viz: The want of interest and attendance on the part of the parents and the adult membership of the church. Several of these schools were kept organized through the winter; several are suspended now for the protracted meeting season, but none of them are disorganized. There is a great want of a proper appreciation of the importance of the Sunday-School cause. The most of our schools use our Uniform Lessons; and are conducted, probably, as well as could be expected considering the limited supply of appliances in literature and trained and punctual teachers. We have an excellent High School at Olin; which while it is not sectarian, has for its Principal a thorough Methodist, a ripe scholar, and an experienced and successful teacher. I commend the school as worthy of extended patronage. The section embraced in the Iredell Circuit, is pretty well supplied with Primary Schools, and our church is doing as much, and I think more, in furnishing these schools with teachers and scholars than any other. The reports at our 2nd Quarterly Conference upon this subject were favorable; and I think the Iredell Circuit is above an average for this section of country, in the interest they manifest in the education of their children Assessed for P. E. $105. For P. C. $600. Total, $705. This amount has been apportioned to the churches as follows: Olin, $140; Clarksburg, $160; Snow Creek, $150; Eagle Mills, $80; Turnersburg, $80; Mt. Bethel, $50; Hopewell, $25; Macedonia, $20; Moss, $5; Total $710. The following has been paid up to this time: Olin, $55.55;

Clarksburg, $87.93; Snow Creek, $50.77; Eagle Mills, $40; Turnersburg, $45.37; Mt. Bethel, $33.15; Hopewell, $8.59; Macedonia, $1.00. Total $322,36. P. E. received up to the 2nd Quarterly Meeting, April 26th $31.00. Leaving in the hands of P. C. $281.36. Olin, Clarksburg, Snow Creek and Mt. Bethel have adopted the assessment plan; which works well. They will probably pay up well. At Eagle Mills and Turnersburg the assessments are paid principally by a few persons, who adopt whatever plan they deem best. They will pay in full. At Hopewell, they prefered the subscription plan, and promise to pay their assessment. At Macedonia, they have no Steward and no plan; but the assessment will probably be raised in some way. At Moss, we have week day preaching, a small congregation, and a smaller assessment, which will be paid perhaps. There are 493 members on the Circuit, which makes on an average of $1.43 per member, for the support of the minister. The assessment for Bishops is $10, and for Conference fund $50. I think those amounts will be raised. We have a tolerably comfortable parsonage. It is a one story building, with three rooms, with fire-places, and cook room and dining room attached. The rooms are all ceiled except the cook room. Two of the rooms in the main building are very small. We have a good office, with stove, for the pastor's study. The parsonage is very moderately supplied with very plain furniture. There are 8 church buildings on the Circuit. The houses at Turnersburg and Eagle Mills are nearly new; plain, but substantial ceiled buildings. At Hopewell there is a new, cheap, unceiled and small house. At Snow Creek, Moss, Macedonia, Clarksburg and Mt. Bethel, the houses are old and some of them considerably dilapidated. We have no church building at Olin. Ever since the society was organized there, they have used the College Chapel, until the last few years, they have a rented room under the Masonic Hall. They need a church building, and a building committee was appointed at the first Quarterly Conference, this year for that purpose, but have made but little progress as yet. There has also been some talk of building at Snow Creek, but nothing definite done. We have an experienced and in every way competent Recording Steward, and the Records are properly kept.

Rev. P. C. Jurney, Local Preacher, from Iredell Circuit, reports an interesting revival, which he recently had at an old unoccupied church, formerly used by the Methodist Protestants. Had seven conversions, and left several penitents.

THIRD DAY.

MORNING SESSION, SATURDAY, AUG. 2, 1879.

Conference met at 9 o'clock, A. M., and was opened with religious services by Rev. W. P. Williams.

Minutes of the afternoon session read approved.

Rev. W. P. Williams, Local Preacher from Mooresville Circuit and Rev. T. A. Nicholson, Local Preacher from Yadkinville Circuit, appeared and took their seats.

Davie Circuit was called, and in the absence of Rev. W. C. Wilson, the Pastor, owing to the severe illness of his wife, and there being no Delegates present, no report was submitted, but the President made some general statements respecting the charge, the parsonage and the building of churches. The general work was represented in good condition.

The Pilot Mountain Circuit was called and in the absence of Rev. S. H. Helsabeck, the Pastor, the President, presented a letter from him giving a sufficient reason for his absence, and stating that there was not much change on his work, but was hopeful at the coming protracted meetings.

The Yadkinville Circuit was called, and in the absence of the Pastor, Rev. S. D. Reeler, Rev. T. A. Nicholson, a Local Preacher from the Circuit, stated that the charge was in a very good condition, and that the Pastor was very acceptable. Had several new churches in process of erection. Finances in a hopeful condition. Sunday-Schools, it is thought, at all the appointments. A parsonage on the work. Churches in good condition.

Rev. Dr. Craven, President of Trinity College, was introduced to the Conference and invited to a seat.

Bro R. R. Crawford stated that the Salisbury District pledges its thirteen Pastors and Presiding Elder for this year $7,705. They have paid of the above up to July 26th 1879 $3,155. The average salary of the ministers is $550.35. The average amount paid to date on salaries is $225.92. This report shows an increase in the collections up to date of $413.51 over last year, which is $29.60 to each minister or an improvement in the collections of 13 per cent.

The following resolutions were offered by Rev. J. T. Harris, Maj. W. M. Robbins, and J. B. Connoly, Esq's: As a District Conference, we are rejoiced to hear through the Agents and Editors of the increasing prosperity of our Church Literature

throughout the Salisbury District. And believing, as we do, that sound religious reading matter is a valuable, if not an indispenable anxiliary of the gospel, we cannot two strongly recommend a yet wider circulation of our books and church periodicals. We recommend the passage of the following resolutions:

Resolved 1. That we circulate as for as we may be able among our people, the Raleigh Christian Advocate, Nashville Christian Advocate, Quarterly Review, and the Southern Missionary Herald.

2 That we regard the Raleigh Christian Advocate as having first claims among the Methodists in this District. And that we deeply appreciate the ability and zeal of the Editors of our Conference Organ, in their increasing efforts to give to the church a newspaper of the first order. And that we pledge ourselves to give to that paper our moral and material support as far as we are able The Conference was addressed by Rev. J. T. Harris, representing the claims of the Nashville Advocate and the Southern Missionary Herald, and Rev. F. L. Reid, who stated how he became connected with the Advocate, and making some general statements respecting the paper. The subscription list is steadily increasing, especially since the change of its form.

The hour of adjournment for religious services having arrived, on motion of Rev. James Willson, the further consideration of the resolution was postponed until the evening session, and the Conference adjourned informally.

Rev. T. A. Boone, preached at 11 o'clock, A. M., from 1 Cor. 12: 13.

AFTERNOON SESSION, AUG. 2.

Conference convened at 2½ o'clock, P. M., and was opened with religious services by Rev. James Willson.

Minutes of the morning session read and approved.

The resolutions pending on adjournment of morning session were called up, whereupon, Dr. Craven addressed the Conference respecting the Southern Review. The resolutions were adopted.

Leave of absence was granted Rev. J C. Rowe.

On motion of Rev. James Wilson, it was

Resolved, That it is the sense of this District Conference that no member of the District Conference should make appointments, previous to the Conference that will interfere with his remaining during the session of the Conference and the exercises of Sabbath.

The order of the day having arrived, the Conference proceeded to the election of lay delegates to the Annual Conference.

On the first ballot R. R. Crawford, W. M. Robbins and R. R. Gwyn, were elected. On the second ballot no election. On the third ballot Rev. T. A Nicholson was elected.

W. G. Woods, Dr. D. F. Holcomd, Perry Tomlin and David Barringer were elected alternates.

A Committee on the District Parsonage presented a report which was unanimously endorsed by the Conference.

The Committee on Missions presented their report, which was amended and adopted as follows: As to the Missionary ground within the limits of this District we recommend: That the various Quarterly Conferences, whose organized work lies adjoining unoccupied territory, would devise some plan for the immediate occupation of the same, and recommend, to the Annual Conference. The Committee recommended that there be a discontinuance of appropriations to Circuits out of the Domestic Missions fund; and that such appointments be called and regarded as Missions until they become self-supporting. We recommend that the Presiding Elder and Pastor of the Distrct, give immediate attention to the organizing of auxiliaries of the Women's Missionary Societies in their respective congregations, and place them in correspondence with the President of that Society, Mrs. N. H. D. Wilson.

Rev. S. D. Peeler, Pastor of Yadkinville Circuit, appeared and took his seat, he having been detained by unavoidable causes.

The following was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference are due and are hereby tendered to the kind citizens of Statesville for the very elegant and hospitable manner in which they have entertained the members of this District Conference.

B. F. SOMEROW.
J. T. HARRIS.

The following resolutions were offered by J. B. Connely, Esq., and Rev. J. J. Renn, and adopted:

Whereas, We believe that the Sunday-School is a most important auxiliary to the church, in that it is the nursery where our children may be trained up in the way in which they should go, and where we may hopefully look for gracious results in bringing into the fold of Christ, the children of the church whom our Saviour carries as Lambs in his bosom, and

Whereas, We cannot successfully conduct a Sunday-School without the aid of Sunday-School Literature. Therefore, we the

Preachers and Laymen of the Salisbury District, in District Conference assembled, adopt the following resolution,

Resolved, 1 That we will return to our different charges with a stronger determination and zeal to work in this field of usefulness, and that we by the help of God, will do all we can to advance this cause of our blessed Master.

2, That we will cheerfully adopt and cordially recommend to the patronage of our church in all our Sunday-Schools, wherever it is practicable, the Uniform Lesson Papers, with Magazines and Our Little People and all of our Sunday-School Publications published by the Publishing House of M. E. Church, South, at Nashville.

J. B. CONNELY.

Jonesville and Elkin, were selected as the places for holding the next District Conference.

On motion of Rev.'s T. A. Boone and M. V. Sherrill it was—

Resolved, That we hereby tender our thanks to the pastors and ruling members of the Presbyterian and Associate Reformed Presbyterian Churches, for the use of their houses of worship on the Sabbath.

The following was adopted:

Resolved, That it is the request of this Conference that Rev. T. A Boone, furnish a synopsis, if he cannot furnish a copy in full, of his sermon on "The Unity of the Church," preached during the session of this Conference, for publication in the Raleigh Christian Advocate, and the editors are hereby requested to publish it.

M. V. SHERRILL.
JAMES WILLSON.

It was resolved that the native teachers in China supported by the Sunday-Schools of this District, and the native preachers supported by this District Conference be discontinued at the close of the present Conference year.

The following was offered by Rev. T. A. Boone, and adopted:

Resolved, That we endorse most heartily the Presidents and Professors of Trinity and Greensboro Colleges, and recommend them to the patronage of our people.

After the doxology and benediction, Conference adjourned *sine die*.

R. G. BARRETT, PRESIDENT.

M. V. SHERRILL, } Secretaries.
JAMES WILLSON, }

An interesting and able address was delivered in the Methodist Church on Saturday night by Dr. Craven, on the relation of the church, to Higher Culture; after which, Hon. W. M. Robbins addressed the audience in his own inimitable style, and took up a collection to pay a debt of about $1600 on the church. Nearly $1000 was raised.

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